

current events in Israel and the Middle East.

I strongly condemn the ongoing murderous attacks by Hezbollah on Israel and its soldiers. Several days ago, eight Israeli soldiers were killed and two were kidnapped following an unprovoked attack on northern Israel. Hezbollah must immediately and unconditionally release all Israeli soldiers. Hezbollah has refused United Nations demands to disarm and has been responsible for terrible acts of violence for many years. No country should provide support for Hezbollah, which is a U.S.-designated terrorist group. Hezbollah's actions are contrary to the interests of the Lebanese people and hurt the region.

The Hezbollah attack follows a June 25 attack by Hamas on a southern Israeli military post that resulted in the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier and the killing of several others. Hamas must also immediately and unconditionally release the soldier it is holding and end attacks on Israel.

The United States will stand by our longtime ally and friend. The Israeli people have the right to live in peace and security. Israel has the right to protect its citizens. I strongly condemn the ongoing murderous attacks by Hezbollah and Hamas on Israel and its soldiers and believe that restraint is needed in the region to stop the escalation of violence and protect innocent lives.

I yield the floor.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today I condemn Hamas's and Hezbollah's unprovoked acts of war against Israel and to express strong support for Israel's right to defend itself.

On July 12, Hezbollah attacked an Israeli military unit patrolling the Israeli border south of Lebanon, and two Israeli soldiers were taken hostage. Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, has admitted that this was a calculated act, which Hezbollah had planned for 5 months. Analysts agree that this act is a sign of support for the Hamas kidnapping of another Israeli soldier on June 25. It is also a sign that two of the regions most recalcitrant terrorist organizations have no interest in the peace and security of the people they supposedly now represent in elected governments in Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories.

Both of these attacks were clear acts of war—attacks on Israeli soldiers guarding undisputed Israeli territory. The Hezbollah attack was also a blatant breach of Security Council resolutions 1559, 1655, and 1680, which certified Israel's full withdrawal from Lebanese territory, called for the disarmament of all militias in Lebanon, and called for an end to attacks across the Israel-Lebanon border.

Despite these resolutions, Hezbollah remains an armed militia group with unrestrained activity in Lebanon and has not been pressured by the Lebanese Government to disarm. In fact,

Hezbollah is a part of the Lebanese Government now with 23 seats in the Lebanese parliament and two ministers in the Government. According to the Department of State, Hezbollah receives \$30–40 million a month in cash, aid, and arms support from Iran. Additionally, Syria is still a strong partner with Iran in supporting, sheltering, and funding Hezbollah to the detriment of the people of Lebanon.

Mr. President, I believe it is critical that the Senate recognize Israel's right to defend itself, and call on the Government of Lebanon to immediately and unconditionally release the abducted Israeli soldiers. The same holds true for the soldier held by Hamas in Gaza. At the same time, we must insist that Iran and Syria immediately cease interfering in the internal affairs of Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories by ending all support for Hezbollah and Hamas.

I will shortly be introducing legislation to increase pressure on the Government of Lebanon to do the right thing and disarm Hezbollah. The Lebanese people surely deserve better than to have their fate determined by this terrorist organization. But for now, Israel deserves our unwavering support as it aims to protect its people from these unprovoked attacks.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PIEDMONT, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this year marks the 150th birthday of the town of Piedmont, WV. This little town, chartered in 1856, is located on the North Branch of the Potomac River in the northeastern corner of West Virginia.

In the late 19th Century, the town of Piedmont bustled with economic activity. A period of prosperous growth began when the Baltimore Ohio Railroad established a locomotive shop complex and switching yard in the area, and the town became an important freight-generating point on the B&O line.

When local entrepreneurs persuaded surrounding railroads to turn from wood to coal for firing their locomotives, the coal industry in the region boomed.

In the 1880s, William Luke established the West Virginia Paper Company's paper mill—Westvaco—in Piedmont, which became a major source of jobs for Piedmont residents. This included native Appalachians, migrant African Americans, and European immigrants, especially Italians and Irish. Therefore, soon after the opening of the paper mill, Piedmont became a town saturated with ethnic neighborhoods. A resident of Piedmont has written that, "Piedmont's character has always been completely bound up with the Westvaco paper mill."

This Town of Piedmont features some unique characteristics. For example, "Ripley's Believe It or Not" once pointed out that Kenney House Hill in Piedmont is the only street in the

world from which a person can enter all three stories of the same building!

Piedmont is also known for a number of famous residents it has produced. This includes Don Redman, a famous jazz musician and composer, who wrote a number of hit arrangements for American music greats like Jimmy Dorsey, Harry James, and Count Basie.

Henry Gassaway Davis was a giant in the coal mining and banking industries in the late 19th Century, and a two-term U.S. Senator from West Virginia. In 1904, Davis was the Democratic nominee for Vice President—he was 80 years of age at the time, making him the oldest person ever nominated for President or Vice President on a major party ticket.

Thousands of people throughout the United States know of the town of Piedmont because of the writings of another of the town's famous residents, the nationally renowned writer and eminent scholar, Henry Louis Gates. Dr. Gates is the W.E.B. DuBois Professor of Humanities at Harvard University and Chairman of Harvard's Department of African and African American Studies Program.

In his memoir, *Colored People*, Dr. Gates discusses life in Piedmont during the 1950s. The book, which reflects on his childhood in this small rural community, before and during the civil rights movement, is a vivid portrayal of the people of Piedmont, whom he describes as "virulent nationalists—Piedmont nationalists." "[N]estled against a wall of mountains, smack-dab on the banks of the mighty Potomac," writes Dr. Gates, "we knew God gave America no more beautiful location." "According to Gates, the town's credo is: 'all New York's got that Piedmont's got is more of what we got. Same but bigger.'" "Otherwise," he writes, "the advantage was all to Piedmont."

Mr. President, I congratulate the town of Piedmont, the little town "on the side of a hill in the Allegheny mountains," as Dr. Gates calls it, on its 150th birthday which the town will celebrate with its "Homefest." I wish the town the best of success on this milestone event.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT SHAW VAUGHAN

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment of the Senate's time to remember a Coloradan who was lost to us last month in defense of this Nation.

Shaw Vaughan was a loving and supportive son and older brother, an avid hunter and fly fisherman. One of his most prized possessions was his 1969 Jeepster Commando, an off-roading vehicle he had personally rebuilt, affectionately named Hercules. Hercules sits quiet today, its red finish gleaming undimmed in the mountain sun.

U.S. Army LT John Shaw Vaughan, of Edwards, in Eagle County in my State of Colorado, was killed on June 7 in Mosul, Iraq. Lieutenant Vaughan

was a young man with his entire life before him: He was a mere 23 years old, and had been in Iraq only a month.

As a middle school student, Shaw Vaughan caught the eye of our military leaders for his regional science fair project: comparing the accuracy of store-bought ammunition with ammunition he had assembled. He graduated Battle Mountain High School in 2001 and attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Upon graduation, Lieutenant Vaughan was one of only 70 cadets, out of 5,000, to receive a much-sought-after assignment in military intelligence in the infantry. It was a high honor, reflecting his intellect, work ethic, and commitment to our Nation.

Lieutenant Vaughan was stationed in Alaska, a part of our country he had visited with his family years earlier. I guess you could say that Alaska had "hooked" the fisherman in Lieutenant Vaughan, and he was looking forward to his service there after he completed his time in Iraq.

Lieutenant Vaughan was eager to get to Iraq, to serve with his unit. In his e-mails and phone calls back home, Lieutenant Vaughan spoke of how strongly he felt about America's mission in Iraq. He told stories of Iraqi families leading him into their homes, telling him horror stories of their families' sufferings under the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein.

As one newspaper in my home State observed, it seems that every story about Shaw Vaughan was different and yet the same: "one of a great guy and a courageous man lost too soon."

In Act III of William Shakespeare's classic "Henry V," King Henry says with pride, "As I am a soldier, A name that in my thoughts becomes me best . . ."

I will think of this today as I bow my head in prayer for the loss of Lieutenant Vaughan, a life of such great promise that was snuffed out too soon. He was living his life to its fullest, on the great adventure before him. But we can rest assured that Lieutenant Vaughan had the convictions of his beliefs, and that he fulfilled his beliefs to the end.

Lieutenant Shaw Vaughan took pride in his life as a soldier, and it is truly a name that, in all of our thoughts, becomes him best.

#### TWO YOUNG MEN OF HONOR

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I rise to remember the 3-year anniversary of the death of two, brave fallen firefighters.

July 22, 2003, will be a day that is always remembered in the hearts of the family and friends of Jeff Allen of Salmon, ID, and Shane Heath of Melba, ID. These brave men lost their lives while trying to save our public lands from a catastrophic wildfire in the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Both men were experienced firefighters of the Indianola Helitack Crew.

This weekend a memorial will be dedicated to Jeff and Shane. Family

and friends will gather to remember their strong spirits and the sacrifice they made. This memorial symbolizes the courage of Jeff and Shane, the healing of the community, and helps us all to remember that wildfire spares no one.

Jeff Allen was 23 years old and had been a firefighter since 1999. He started working on the Salmon-Challis National Forest on a thinning crew on the Salmon-Cobalt District in 1998. He served successfully in fighting devastating fires on the Salmon-Challis National Forest during the 2000 fire season. Jeff was a marketing major at Boise State University.

Shane Heath was 22 years old and was in his fourth season with the Forest Service. He served on the Helitack crew as a certified sawyer and was also a student at Boise State University.

The tragic loss of these two men continues to be felt throughout their communities and their selfless acts of true bravery will not be forgotten. I commend the men and women who risk their lives every day by undertaking this terribly dangerous job with courage and professionalism.

Thousands of young men and women are on the fire fronts of the wildfires that are now sweeping across the West. As we enter the middle of fire season, with the devastating heat that we are having in the Great Basin, and the West, I hope that we do not lose another firefighter to wildfire.

#### GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate has passed the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, S. 2430. My colleague from Michigan, Senator LEVIN, and I believe that this legislation will provide the resources and authority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the States, and the tribes to restore fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes.

The program has support from the States, tribes, and nongovernmental groups because it is a good management tool. Over 140 fish species and over 500 species of migratory birds can be found in the basin. The Great Lakes population has been growing, and like many coastal areas, there is a large concentration of people and industry on the coasts. Further, the Great Lakes are threatened by the continuing introduction of invasive species which impact the native food chain and habitat.

The fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes are under pressure, and the Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006 provides needed resources and authority. For instance, the bill would reauthorize the grant program, increasing the amount available for grants to \$12 million and add wildlife projects to the types of projects that may receive grants. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service would award grants based on the rec-

ommendations from the existing grant proposal review committee, though wildlife experts would be added to this committee.

The bill also authorizes up to \$6 million each year for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to undertake projects that have a regional benefit to fish and wildlife. Under this new authority, the Service would undertake projects based on the recommendations of States and tribes.

This bill reflects the collaboration of nongovernmental groups, as well as tribal, State, and Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the management of fish and wildlife resources of the Great Lakes. All of those groups have the goal of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes fish and wildlife, and this bill will continue in the right direction. I thank all of these groups for their work in shaping this bill.

I also thank the staff at the Environment and Public Works Committee, particularly Nathan Richmond and JoEllen Darcy. I understand that Nathan's work in preparing this bill for markup was interrupted by the early arrival of his first child, so I appreciate the staff work involved in moving this bill.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPENING

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I honor and congratulate Fairfax Water, which serves nearly 1.5 million customers in the Commonwealth of Virginia on the opening of the Frederick P. Griffith, Jr. water treatment plant in Lorton, VA. They are dedicating the plant this Saturday, and while I am not able to attend the ceremony and festivities, I want to congratulate the leadership of Fairfax Water particularly Board Chairman Harry F. Day, and the other Fairfax Water board members Constance M. Houston, Philip W. Allin, Richard G. Terwilliger, Bill G. Evans, Burton J. Rubin, Paul J. Andino, Linda A. Singer, A. Dewey Bond, and Frank R. Begovich as well as Charles M. Murray, the general manager, for their efforts in undertaking this endeavor.

The Griffith plant is a state-of-the-art facility which combines sensitivity to the environment, technologically savvy security measures, and an appreciation for the history of its surrounding area. The plant sits on the site of a prison most famous for holding a group of suffragettes in 1917 who were arrested for demonstrating in front of the White House to secure their right to vote. The facility pays tribute to these brave ladies by incorporating design elements of the workhouse in the plant's architectural design. The opening of the facility shows the dedication Fairfax Water has for its customer's health and safety. Fairfax Water will continue to be a